

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English) Year 2, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 2118 – Discourses in Migrant Writing

Two Hours

Answer any two questions.

1. “Identities also involve the circulation (and disruption) of cultural meanings, objects, and identities that are at the heart of struggles over the definition of a collective reality.” Discuss with detailed reference to any one of the texts/performance texts that you have studied this semester. (Please note that you cannot address the same text in your next answer.)

2. ‘Women’s bodies reproduce nations, not only biologically, but also culturally and symbolically; their bodies become markers for the construction and maintenance of what Benedict Anderson calls imagined communities.’

Critically analyse the above quotation with reference to *D’Amma* as written and performed by D’Lo.

3. Discuss with detailed reference to the text *Running in the Family* how Ondaatje explores the imaginative as a legitimate – almost necessary – space of experience.

4. Reflecting on the short stories by Arab American writers and/or the performance poetry of Suheir Hammad titled *First Writing Since*, examine how this kind of contemporary writing is crucial to provoking a more complex reading of the limitations and tensions surrounding the determination of Arab American subjectivity.

5. Edward Said in *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays* writes: “...exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.”

Using this quotation as a reference point, reflect on the specificity of land and memory within the experiences of exile you encountered in *Exile* by Jamila Hashimi and *You Must Set Forth at Dawn* by Wole Soyinka.

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